

Hand in Hand

THE DOMESTIC EMPLOYERS NETWORK

Testimony Concerning H.B. 5527, An Act Concerning a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights

TESTIMONY OF DOROTHY TEGELER, MEMBER, HAND IN HAND: THE DOMESTIC EMPLOYERS NETWORK

March 13, 2014

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

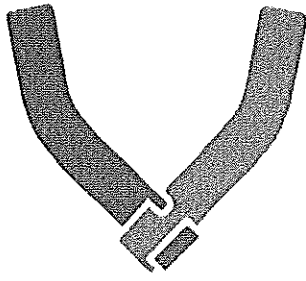
My name is Dorothy Tegeler. I am a member of Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network. Hand in Hand is a national network of employers of nannies, housecleaners, and home attendants, along with families and allies. I am from West Hartford, Connecticut and I currently live in New Haven.

Hand in Hand strongly supports the CT Domestic Worker Bill of Rights, H.B. 5527. We believe that the standards and labor protections offered by H.B. 5527 are an important step towards creating mutually beneficial working environments in the home.

H.B. 5527 is deeply connected to all Connecticut residents. Domestic work touches all of our lives. At some point, all of us have engaged in or benefitted from domestic work-- we have cleaned, cared for family and friends, received or provided childcare. Many Connecticut residents are paid domestic workers, and many are domestic employers. Hand in Hand members nationally represent diverse employer communities that include mothers, members of faith communities, peoples with disabilities, seniors, working families, and employers committed to the collective good.

H.B. 5527 recognizes that domestic workers are invaluable. Domestic workers care for and support their employers' homes, children, relatives, and bodies. Connecticut would come to a halt without its estimated 40,000 domestic workers, who make it possible for their employers to work to support their families, communities, and the entire economy of the state.

H.B. 5527 will support families to receive quality care and support. In this economic climate, domestic workers need fair labor standards, job security, and basic protections more than ever. At the same time, middle-class and working Connecticut residents deserve high-quality care in their homes, and are looking for a set of guidelines to help create caring homes and just workplaces. The Bill of Rights is an important step to value and protect domestic workers in government policy, and to provides employers with clear guidelines and standards for employing those who for what we value most: our homes, children, and families.



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H.B. 5527 provides workers & employers with much needed guidelines. When individuals and families seek the support of nannies/childcare providers, housecleaners, or home attendants to support seniors or people with disabilities, we are often un-aware that we are becoming employers. We are left to muddle through the experience in the isolation of our homes. Domestic employment relationships need guidelines to help employers develop positive, mutually beneficial relationships with the workers who care for our homes, families and lives.

Connecticut can and should be a leader in ensuring labor protections for domestic workers.

*For more information, please contact Hand in Hand Director Danielle Feris:
info@domesticemployers.org. For more about Hand in Hand, visit www.domesticemployers.org.*